

many more in the meeting who want a chance to say something.

10. Don't forget that, if your life doesn't correspond with your prayers and professions, they are in vain.

11. Don't begin a half hour late.

12. Don't forget that the prayer meeting should prepare for service.

#### WEST INDEPENDENCE, O.

BROTHER EDITOR:—In reply to brother S. W. Wilt under the caption "Information Wanted," I wish to say as a member of that committee that we offered that resolution and recommended it that we should as a church accept the admonition of Paul on the question of temperance and all things. And as for the book and chapter and verse, we do not claim it to so read, but that is the spirit of Paul's language. Let our brother please read I Corinthians 9: 25, "And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown, but we an incorruptible." How readest thou, my brother? We stand by the resolution No. 3.

Respectfully,

M. S. WHITE.

#### HINTS ON BIBLE STUDY.

(Gathered from various sources.)

1. Read the Bible comprehensively, getting the grand view of each book or set of books. This is hardly second in value to any method of Bible study, and yet is probably least followed of any. Bible reading is, for the most part, either "in course" or with sharp analysis of single verses here and there, or in single chapters. It is of the highest importance that we should also get a comprehensive bird's eye view of each Bible epistle, each history, each biography, by reading it continuously to the end, or at least with a few intervals and as short as if we were reading a modern letter, biography or history.

The time required to read the individual books of the Bible is much less than is usually supposed. Genesis, which is the longest historical book in the Bible, can be read, without haste, in three hours—an amount of time which almost every one frequently gives to a favorite author, at one or two sittings. Luke is the only New Testament book that requires two hours for its reading. Forty-two out of the sixty-six books of the Bible, may be read in less than an hour each. Of course, such books as Proverbs and Psalms, which have no continuous narrative, should not be read so continuously.

2. Study to know for what, and to whom a book or chapter was written.

3. Study how to use the Bible so as to

"walk with God" and lead others to Christ.

4. Read the Book as if it were written for yourself. Always ask God to help you to understand it, and then expect that he will.

5. Carry a Bible or Testament with you.

6. Read systematically, with some purpose in mind.

7. Read the Bible with a view of living rather than learning it, coming to it not only perfunctorily for lessons and sermons, but also for loving conversation, "as a man talketh with his friend."

### Church News.

#### CONFERENCE FORECASTES.

Very rapidly the time is approaching when we shall again meet in National Conference. The paramount thought in our every mind should be the why, and the wherefore of these gatherings. They cost time and money and much hard labor to those who have charge of the arrangements. There should, therefore, be a laudable, holy excuse for holding them in the minds of every member of the church whether able to attend or not, and very definite reasons in the minds of those who do attend for their being there. It is to be feared that some attend conference without aim, or purpose, higher than mere personal gratification by way of diversion through hearing and seeing, others possibly to see how much glory they can get out of their fine sermons, or smart sayings, and still others perhaps to see how much popularity they can achieve.

The primary object of every Conference, district or national, should be the evangelization of the world. This is the mission of Christ, and the commission to the church, and any conference held without this object practically in view is a failure. It matters not how pleasant, or how enthusiastic the occasion may be, and any Christian attending a church conference with an object lower than this dishonors his Lord.

There are many ways which we can contribute to the carrying out of the great, primal commission. I cannot go into details but a few points may be noticed: Through organization of National conference, not for the occasion only, a continuous standing organization from conference to conference to carry into effect the measures out-lined during the sessions. Through organization of a general Home Mission Board, upon a broad representative basis; through organization of all our Young People's Societies into one harmonious compact; the estab-

lishment of a permanent Educational Institution; the institution of a series of Bible and Missionary Conventions to be held at interval, in different localities, during the year, the election of a "field secretary" or general organizer, to systematically organize all our forces and financial resources for aggressive work; the organization of a Foreign Mission Board: the production of a literature of our own, bearing upon the doctrine and tenets of the church; the liberal support of our Publishing House so that it may grow into a strong, profitable institution for the church financially, morally and spiritually.

The above are in a general way the subjects that ought to engage our minds between now and conference time. Every speech made, every paper read, or every sermon preached during the conference should in some way have a direct bearing upon one or more of these questions.

Preachers should not come to our conference with a view of preaching their pet sermons, or best sermons, simply to achieve popularity for themselves, but prepare as best they can matters bearing directly upon the work in hand, whether it is popular or unpopular.

I have omitted reference to the S. S. C. E. because they are already so well organized, and appear to be amply able to take care of their own business. They should however have the hearty co-operation of all of us in their work. I have referred to the Home Mission Board because our present Board is too small, hence not representative enough to prove satisfactory. This is no reflection upon the brethren that constitute the present organization. I believe that they have done all, and as well as the circumstances permitted; it is not their fault that there are only three members on the Board, and all located in or near Chicago. A National Mission Board should be founded upon principles of nationalism and not localism.

I have suggested the organization of a Foreign Mission Board partly because there is a large amount of important work to be done in providing education and training for foreign work, locating a field and establishing stations, &c., and partly because the interest of the Home Board and Foreign are not altogether identical, especially not from a financial standpoint. "Competition is the life of trade." There is energy in friction, only so it is laudable. A little rivalry between a Home and Foreign Board would make things interesting to the church and glorify God.

I find I have drifted into arguing questions instead of merely suggesting points for consideration as I had meant to do,